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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1842

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAF, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC MEETING APRIL 3: POL SHORTAGE

REF: STATE 66037 NOTAL

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS DISCUSSION INDPC APRIL 3 ON AGENDA ITEM III, IMPACT OF CURRENT POL SHORTAGE ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES. AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD CALLED FOR INCREASED COOPERATION AND AN ASSESSMENT OF LONG TERM IMPACT OF RISING FUEL COSTS. HE WAS SUPPORTED BY LOGAN (UK) IN ASKING THAT REQUIREMENT OF SOME COUNTRIES TO HAVE POL STOCKS REPLACED IN KIND NOT BE ESTABLISHED AS A PRINCIPLE. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY SYG PANSA SUGGESTED THAT REPORT CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION (CMCM-7-74) WAS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST AND NEED ONLY BE NOTED. DPC'S DECISION OF FEBRUARY 28 TO APPROVE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S BASIC GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING IMPACT OF POL SHORTAGE ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED. MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS AND NATIONS WILL KEEP MATTER UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW; FULL IMPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED AT CONFIDENTIAL

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NEXT AUTUMN'S DEFENSE REVIEW.

2. RUMSFELD MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT DRAWN FROM REFTEL AND CMCM-7-74. QUOTE

DESPITE THE INDICATIONS THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF POL WILL INCREASE, THE DPC SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE MAINTAINS A CAREFUL WATCH OVER THE NATO EXERCISE PROGRAM SO THAT IF OIL SHORTAGES OR EXPENSES ARE TO IMPACT ON THIS AREA, IT WILL BE WITH A MINIMUM OF DAMAGE AND WITH SOME RELATIONSHIP TO THE OVERALL PRIORITIES.

MY GOVERNMENT FEELS THAT IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO REVIEW THE ENTIRE EXERCISE CYCLE SO AS TO DEVELOP SOME SEMBLANCE OF PRIORITY AMONG THE COMPETING EXERCISES SO THAT NATO COULD OBTAIN MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM AN EXERCISE SCHEDULE IF IT HAD TO BE REDUCED OR MODIFIED IN THE FUTURE DUE TO OIL SHORTAGES OR INCREASED EXPENSES. WHILE NATO SHOULD NOT CONSTRUCT THIS AS A HINT OF US DESIRES TO REDUCE EXERCISES, WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT POL PROBLEM WILL NOT SOON DISAPPEAR AND THAT IN THE INTERIM SOME ESSENTIAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING SHOULD BE UNDERWAY.

SINCE THE IMMEDIATE CONCERN OVER POL AVAILABILITIES HAS ABATED, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SUGGESTS THAT THOSE NATIONS WHO HAVE SO INDICATED, IN THE ENCLOSURE TO CMCM-7-74, CONSIDER DROPPING THEIR REQUIREMENT TO HAVE POL STOCKS REPLACED IN KIND. THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED LEST THIS REMAIN IN THE RECORD AND ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT THAT COULD SERIOUSLY HINDER FUTURE EXERCISES. RATHER THAN HAVING INDIVIDUAL NATIONS ESTABLISH THIS REPLACEMENT CRITERIA, WE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE MATTER DISCUSSED IN THE DPC SO THAT A UNIFORM POLICY MIGHT BE DEVELOPED.

THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN AVAILABILITY OF POL WILL NOT ELIMINATE OUR PROBLEMS BUT SUBSTITUTE THE DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY INCREASED COSTS FOR THOSE CAUSED BY SHORTAGES. IF ANYTHING, THE SITUATION WILL WORSEN SINCE THE IMPACT WILL AFFECT OVERALL READINESS AND DEFENSE BUDGETS, NOT SIMPLY EXERCISES. ALONG THESE LINES THE UNITED STATES WOULD WELCOME THE DPC MAKING SOME EFFORT TO HAVE THE NATO COUNTRIES

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ASSESS THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF RISING FUEL COSTS, AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL SUGGESTED IN THE DPC ON FEBRUARY 28. WE EXPECT THAT THESE COSTS WILL HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT UPON BUDGETS WHICH, UNLESS ACCOUNTED FOR THROUGH INCREASED EXPENDITURES, WILL DEGRADE NATO READINESS. WHILE NATIONS THEMSELVES WILL HAVE TO TALK AT INCREASING EXPENDITURES, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR NATO TO HIGHLIGHT THESE DANGERS AND EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED COOPERATION THAT WOULD TEND TO REDUCE INEFFICIENCIES AND WASTEFUL REDUNDANCIES.

IN READING THE MC REPORT I NOTE THAT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 1 SAYS "IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT BECAUSE OF THEIR COMPLEXITY, IT IS NOT PRACTICAL TO PROVIDE A COMPLETE REVIEW OF THE 1974

EXERCISE PROGRAMS BUT THAT THEY WILL BE KEPT UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW BETWEEN MNCS AND NATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE POL SITUATION AT ANY GIVEN TIME."

FIRST, I'D BE CURIOUS TO KNOW WHO AGREED TO THAT.
SECONDLY, IN VIEW OF THE STATED COMPLEXITY I WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THE NATURE OF THE REVIEW BETWEEN THE MNCS AND NATIONS WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT. END QUOTE.

3. DEPTUY CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE (INTER) RESPONDED THAT HE WISHED TO DISPEL THE NOTION THAT THE PROBLEM WAS OVER; COSTS WILL BE THE DRIVING FACTOR IN THE FUTURE. SACEUR IS REDUCING THE NUMBER OF OBSERVERS AT EXERCISES. MNCS ARE CONSULTING NATIONS AT MOD LEVEL. ADMIRAL MINTER DESCRIBED COMPLEXITY IN TERMS OF LARGE NUMBER OF EXERCISES, MANY OF WHICH ARE QUITE SMALL. THERE IS A DANGER IN ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES AMONG EXERCISES BECAUSE ONES LEFT OUT WOULD IMMEDIATELY BECOME SUSPECT. THERE IS A REASONABLE NUMBER OF EXERCISES NEEDED TO MAINTAIN REDINESS. EGRADING STATEMENT AT BOTTOM OF PAGE 1, MINTER SAID MILITARY COMMITTEE HAD AGREED.

4. KGAN (UK) SUPPRTED US POINT ON REPLACEMENT IN KIND AND DOUBTED WISDOM OF ESTABLISHING THIS AS A PRINCIPLE OR PRRECEDENT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO DO AND MORE EXPENSIVE THAN REPLACEMENT WITH MONEY.

5. DRC NOTED CMCM-7-74 AND TOOK NO DECISIONS.
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6. COMMENT: MISSION WILL SEND LETTER TO LUNS ASKING THAT ACTION BE TAKEN TO GET STUDY UNDER WAY ASSESSING LONG TERM IMPACT OF RISING FUEL COSTS. WE WILL ALSODISCUSS WITH DELEGATIONS CONCERNED THEIR POSITION ON REPLACEMENT IN KIND. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE RECIVING WASHINGTON THOUGHTS ON POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED COOPERATION TO REDUCE INEFFICIENCIES AND REDUNDANCIES, AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL.
RUMSFELD

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